

**5.8.3.2 Implement, Enhance and Promote Functional Regional Voice and Data Systems in Support of Interoperable Communications**

**NECP Alignment:**

NECP Objective	NECP Initiative	NECP Milestone
3	3.1	6

**Gap Statement:** Although some robust regional systems exist (see Appendix H) and other systems are under development, many areas within Arizona do not have access to regional shared systems and currently operate on individual agency systems. Lack of or inadequate connectivity between systems hinders interoperability.

**Initiative Description:** Arizona has identified the linking of regional systems with one another and with state systems as the means to facilitate interoperability statewide. This initiative is designed to support the development of those component systems and related connections.

**Priority:** High

**Term/Timeframe:** Long-term

**Lead/Owner:** Regional Partners

**Primary Participants:**

- PSIC Office
- State Agency Users
- PSCC
- SIEC

**Action Plan:**

- 1) Problem/Needs Analysis
  - a. Define the problems facing Arizona related to developing robust and sustainable regional systems that serve as foundational elements for statewide interoperable communications
  - b. Identify possible solutions
- 2) Stakeholder Input
  - a. Define a scope for each subordinate approach/solution
  - b. Provide needs statements and inputs
- 3) Planning
  - a. Develop funding plans for projected regional system projects/needs statewide
  - b. Develop sustainment plans which incorporate outreach, leadership support, and education elements in addition to funding requirements.
- 4) Design - Research historical lessons learned/successes (e.g., from SMEs, other localities/states, etc.)
- 5) Develop Proposals
  - a. Submit for stakeholder/SME review/feedback/recommendations
  - b. Present revised proposals to the appropriate approval body(ies) for further review and approval

**Arizona Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan**

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- 6) Implement approved approaches
- 7) Conduct both on-going and end result evaluations

**Objectives:**

- 1) Encourage partnerships in regional shared systems
- 2) Support the development of new regional shared systems
- 3) Provide enhancements to existing regional shared systems
- 4) Develop interoperability connections between regional shared systems
- 5) Develop regional strategic technology assets and other communications redundancies
- 6) Program national interoperability channels into emergency responder radios (NECP milestone)

**Performance Measures:**

- 1) Participate in and/or facilitate meetings to foster regionalization of public safety/service communications
- 2) Pursue grant funding and technical assistance to promote developing new and enhancing existing regional shared systems
- 3) Provide outreach and education to encourage productive discussion regarding the benefits and challenges of regionalized communications strategies
- 4) Implement interoperable communications between users of neighboring shared systems (e.g., intersystem shared channels, etc.)
- 5) Implement redundant and/or ancillary communications capabilities at the regional level
- 6) Program national interoperability channels into radios

**Critical Success Factors/Risks:**

- 1) Availability of resources (e.g., funding, staffing, equipment, etc.)
- 2) Impact of "Home Rule" decision making and local autonomy
- 3) Cooperation of local agencies and users
- 4) Willingness of agencies to consider a regionalized approach that consolidates communications services
- 5) Fostering the support of appropriate elected and governmental officials
- 6) Impact of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessments and approvals
- 7) Challenges related to the technical interoperability between proprietary systems
- 8) Award of technical assistance or grants

**Funding:**

- Federal
  - SHSGP
  - IECGP
  - PSIC
  - OEC
- State
  - PSIC Office - Supports regional planning through technical assistance, outreach efforts and consulting to regional partners
- Local

**Potential funding**

- Federal
  - OPSG
  - UASI
  - SLIGP

**Outreach Plan:** See Sections 4.5.4 and 5.8.5.1.